

## Introduction

The Thomas Jefferson Planning District is comprised of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene, Louisa and Nelson counties and the City of Charlottesville. The region's western edge is in the mountainous Blue Ridge physiographic province. The majority of the region is in the Piedmont physiographic province's rolling landscape.

Varied terrain, habitats and vegetation types characterize this region. Most of the region is rural except in the vicinity of Charlottesville, along Interstate 64 and in the Route 29 corridor north of Charlottesville. The presence of Lake Anna has been a catalyst for the development of a large retirement community. Adding to the scenic beauty of the area are viewsheds of mountainsides, ridges and pastoral valleys.

The region abounds with scenic, natural, open space and historic resources — a legacy that Virginians have worked together to protect. More than 73,003 acres in the region are under open space easements held primarily by the Virginia Outdoors Foundation. A number of rivers add to the scenic and environmental qualities of the area. Segments of the Rockfish, Rivanna and Moormans rivers have been designated as Virginia Scenic Rivers. The Rivanna River, designated in 2000 as an official project of the Save America's Treasures campaign by the National Trust of Historic Preservation, has been the focus of increased attention due to concern over the future of its capacity to supply water to the region. Other important rivers in the area include the James, Tye, Mechums, North Anna, South Anna, Hardware and Piney. There is a need for greater public access to the rivers.

The region continues to experience rapid growth, due in part to expanding development pressure from the urban crescent and shifting work habits that allow for increased telecommuting. Fluvanna County is ranked one of the 100 fastest growing counties in the United States. In 2000, the region had a population of 199,648. By 2005, the population had grown to 215,800, which is an increase of 8.1 percent. All the localities in the region experienced growth in that five-year period. Future growth is anticipated to be rapid, with the population in the region projected to increase 21.3 percent from its population level of 199,648 in 2000 to 253,800 in 2020.

Recommendations applicable to all regions are found in chapters III through IX. To meet needs established in the 2007 *Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP)*, it is important to integrate these recommendations with those that follow for Region 10 into regional and local planning and development strategies.

## Outdoor recreation

For a general discussion of outdoor recreation trends, issues and planning considerations in Virginia, see Chapter II: Outdoor Recreation Issues, Trends and Survey Findings, and Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Planning and Related Issues.

In public meetings conducted in November 2005, connectivity for alternative transportation emerged as the major issue in Region 10. More bike paths (on and off-road), rail-trail projects, equestrian trails, mountain bike trails and managed trails for off-highway vehicles are needed. Local parks should be connected to trunkline trail systems to enable citizens to walk or bicycle to points of interest. Trails on existing federal lands should be improved and extended to connect to communities.

Citizens expressed a desire for a dedicated funding source for land conservation. Initiatives are needed to increase the tree canopy in urban areas and to preserve large blocks of native forests in rural areas. More public lands, state parks and natural areas are needed to both conserve large tracts of land and meet future outdoor recreation demand. Regional outdoor recreation needs are found in Table X-10.

A 2005 *Community Attitude and Interest Survey* conducted by the City of Charlottesville found that citizens wanted walking and biking trails (70 percent), large community parks (61 percent), picnic shelters and picnic areas (61 percent), small neighborhood parks (60 percent), nature trails and nature centers (59 percent), and natural areas and wildlife habitats (57 percent). Walking and biking trails had the highest percentage of respondents select it as one of the four most important facilities. This option also had the highest percentage of respondents select it as their first choice for the most important facility.

All localities in Region 10 are served by a parks and recreation department. According to the Commonwealth of Virginia Auditor of Public Accounts, *Comparative Report on Local Government Revenues and Expenditures* (year ended June 30, 2005), per capita spending on parks and recreation for each locality in this region was: Charlottesville, \$183.15; Albemarle, \$21.94; Fluvanna, \$21.35; Greene, \$6.40; Louisa, \$29.80; and Nelson \$11.69. This compares to a statewide average per capita spending on parks and recreation of \$55.31, including \$85.51 from towns, \$43.75 from counties, and \$76.45 per capita from cities in Virginia.

### Land conservation

A detailed discussion on statewide awareness of the need for conservation of farmland, parks, natural areas, and historical and cultural resources is found in Chapter III: Land Conservation. Conservation lands in the region are shown on Map X-20.

#### Land Trusts and Conservation Programs Operating in Region 10

- APVA Preservation Virginia
- Appalachian Trail Conservancy
- Blue Ridge Foothills Conservancy
- Central Virginia Land Conservancy
- Chesapeake Bay Foundation
- Civil War Preservation Trust
- Department of Historic Resources
- Friends of the Rappahannock
- Historic Green Springs
- James River Association
- National Park Trust
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Rivanna Conservation Society
- Scenic Virginia
- The Conservation Fund
- The 500-Year Forest Foundation
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation
- Trust for Public Land
- Valley Conservation Council
- Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Land conservation recommendations include:

- Localities that lie within the viewshed of the Blue Ridge Parkway, Skyline Drive, the Appalachian Trail (AT) and selected areas of Route 29 should work to protect the scenic views and adjacent lands. The National Park Service (NPS) has viewshed manage-

ment and landscape design guidelines for viewshed protection.

- Development should be discouraged on mountaintops to protect significant scenic views.
- Large undeveloped tracts of natural lands should be protected to retain the biological diversity and character of the region.
- The watershed of the Southwest Mountains in Albemarle County should be protected.
- Large farms adjacent to the Rapidan River in Greene County should be protected.
- Water quality and adjacent riparian lands in the James River corridor, the Rockfish River Valley, the South Fork of the Rivanna River and the main stem of the Rivanna River should be protected.

### Green infrastructure

Information about green infrastructure is found in Chapter IV: Green Infrastructure. Regional recommendations for green infrastructure include:

- Local and regional agencies should become informed and educate constituents about green infrastructure planning, including guidance on local zoning initiatives for changing community design and transportation systems.
- The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission should continue to develop partnerships to work on a green infrastructure plan.
- Albemarle County should take a leadership role for the region by developing a biodiversity action plan and subsequent implementation measures that provide means for sustaining the landscape and ecological integrity required for important ecological services and healthy populations of native plants and animals. This action was recommended in the 2004 Albemarle County Biodiversity Workgroup.

### Programs

The following recommendations integrate statewide program initiatives into responsive regional strategies for outdoor recreation and conservation. The statewide program areas addressed in this section include: trails and greenways, blueways and water access, historic and landscape resources, scenic resources, scenic highways and Virginia byways, scenic rivers, watersheds, environmental and land stewardship education, and the private sector. Recommendations are bulleted or numbered and are not sequenced by state or local priorities. Numbered recommendations are

site specific to the regional map at the end of this section (see Map 21).

## Trails and greenways

For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiatives, Greenways and Trails.

- Local and regional agencies should evaluate the transportation network to see what paved and unpaved roadways are currently used as trails and protect these trail corridors in their land use and transportation plans.

### Statewide Trunkline Trails

**1** The **James River Heritage Trail** is proposed to follow America's Founding River from the Chesapeake Bay to the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. The trail parallels the old Kanawha Canal towpath, park trails, scenic riverside roadways and urban riverfront trails deep into the heart of Virginia.

- The Albemarle County Greenway Plan includes a trail along the James River from Nelson County to Fluvanna County. This trail will also serve to connect Scottsville to Totter Park as well as provide bicycle access to Hatton's Ferry crossing.

**2** The **Appalachian Trail** is an existing National Scenic Trail. Because of this special designation, localities that host the Appalachian Trail should be cognizant of protecting viewsheds from existing overlooks and other scenic values of the corridor. The National Park Service and the Appalachian Trail Conservancy are working to turn the trail into a "mega-transect," an outdoor lab where scientists will gather data on human impacts to the trail.

### Other Trails

**3** A **Rivanna River Greenway** system through Fluvanna and Albemarle counties should be developed to connect the Town of Columbia to the City of Charlottesville. Trail rehabilitation is needed to address problems related to stream crossings, private land issues and erosion control. Permanent protection of the trail should be pursued through land acquisition or easements.

**4** The **Three-Notched Trail** should be developed to connect the City of Charlottesville to Mechums River. This trail could be extended west to the Blue Ridge Parkway and east to Richmond along Route 250 to follow part of the route of an old Indian trail.

**5** Development of the **Virginia Blue Ridge Railway Trail**, a joint effort between Nelson and Amherst counties, should be continued.

**6** Development of the **Rockfish Valley Loop Trail** in Nelson County should be continued. Trailheads should be improved with toilets, kiosks, signage and interpretive markers.

**7** The five-mile **Fluvanna Heritage Trail** at Pleasant Grove is operated by the Fluvanna Heritage Trail Foundation. The foundation is also developing an equestrian trail and is working to acquire an abandoned CSX railroad right-of-way for conversion to trail use. The foundation is also working in collaboration with the historical society to renovate and provide additional trail connections from Palmyra Mills and Lock to Village Park. Future development should provide river access for recreation and education, recreational interpretive pathways, alternative modes of transportation to link the Palmyra area and Pleasant Grove, and development of universally accessible outdoor experiences (ADA) for all users.

**8** The **Saunders-Monticello Trail**, which winds its way along Route 53 for two miles to the entrance of Monticello, receives nearly 85,000 visitors each year. Efforts should continue to extend this popular Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail.

**9** Potential development of a trunkline **trail along the Route 29 corridor** should be studied.

**10** The **Blue Ridge Tunnel** should be developed as a trail connection to the west, which may tie in to a network of other proposed trails throughout the Shenandoah Valley.

**11** The **Predgy Creek** property, a 571-acre tract located in Albemarle, Orange and Greene counties, should be developed for hiking, running, mountain biking and equestrian trail use.

**12** The trail network at the 600-acre **Patricia Ann Byrom Forest Preserve Park** should be enhanced.

**13** **Ash-Lawn Highland and Monticello** should be connected by a carriage or hiking trail.

**14** Captain Jack Jouett, Jr., made a historic 40-mile ride by horseback overnight on June 3-4, 1776, from the town of Louisa to Monticello on what was probably an old Indian trail. **Jack Jouett's historic ride**, more dangerous and difficult than that of Paul Revere, saved Governor Thomas Jefferson and members of

the Virginia Legislature from the approaching British army. The anniversary of this ride could be celebrated as part of National Trails Day held in early June. A brochure, map and road signs of the trail would facilitate year-round use.

## Water Access

Blueways and water access are critical in a water rich state such as Virginia. Public beaches in Region 10 are available at Chris Greene Lake, Walnut Creek and Mint Springs Valley Park in Albemarle County and along Lake Anna in Louisa County. Significant publicly owned lakes and reservoirs in the region include Lake Anna and Northeast Creek Reservoir in Louisa County, and Beaver Creek, Ragged Mountain, Rivanna, Sugar Hollow and Totter Creek Reservoirs in Albemarle County. Public fishing is available at Lake Albemarle, Lake Nelson and Fluvanna Ruritan Lake.

A discussion of water access in the Commonwealth can be found in Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Water Access and Blueways. Water access recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should establish cooperative agreements among localities, other agencies and private landowners to meet the increasing need for public access to recreational waters.
- Regional and local agencies should identify strategies to make additional waterfront resources available for public use.
- Regional and local agencies should provide adequate support facilities and services, such as restrooms, concessions, parking and maintenance for existing and proposed public water and beach access areas.
- Regional and local agencies should acquire or maintain access to existing public beaches and water access sites that may be jeopardized by changes in land use or development activities.
- In 2005, the Louisa County Board of Supervisors adopted a shoreline management ordinance to address water quality, public safety and quality of life issues and to encourage development of non-structural stabilization techniques. Similar ordinances should be considered by localities throughout the region.

**15** Service facilities for the public should be developed along the **South Fork of the Rockfish River**. The Rockfish Valley Loop Trail provides public access at Reid's Creek for water viewing. Parking is available at both Spruce Creek Park and Rockfish River trailhead.

**16** The Rivanna Conservation Society's **Rivanna River Water Trail**, a designated Chesapeake Bay Gateway, should be extended from Darden Towe Park up the North and South Forks of the Rivanna River. The Fluvanna County Historical Society and the Virginia Canals and Navigations Society are attempting to have all the locks on the Rivanna Canal added to the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The existing water trail map and guide marks a water trail from Darden Towe Park to Columbia.

**17** The feasibility of providing picnicking and primitive and canoe-in camping within the **James River Wildlife Management Area**, as well as on other large tracts of land located along major rivers in the region, should be investigated to improve access to the existing Middle James River Trail. Where appropriate, portages should be created around dams and other river obstacles.

**18** A launch site at the **Dickerson Road Bridge as it crosses the North Fork of the Rivanna River** should be considered.

**19** A launch site below the **South Fork Reservoir dam where Route 29 crosses the South Fork of the Rivanna River** should be considered. Albemarle County's greenways and blueways system includes two launch sites along the Rivanna River (Darden Towe, Milton) and planning should continue for additional sites. Albemarle County also maintains two launch sites along the James River at Warren and Howardsville.

**20** **Boat, canoe and inner tube access to the Rivanna River** at either Pen or Riverview Parks within the City of Charlottesville should be considered.

**21** Additional boating access points on the **Rivanna River at Carysbrook** near the Route 15 bridge in Fluvanna County should be provided.

**22** Additional boating access points on the **Rivanna River at Pleasant Grove** in Fluvanna County should be provided.

**23** Additional boating access points on the **Rivanna River around Columbia** near the Route 6 bridge in Fluvanna County should be provided.

**24** Additional boating access points on the **Hardware River near the Route 637 bridge** in Fluvanna County should be provided.

25 Additional boating access points on the **Hardware River off Route 611** in the Hardware Wildlife Management Area should be provided.

26 Seasonal visitor services along the **Mechums and the Moormans rivers**, which are currently used by paddlers during high-water flows, should be provided.

### Historic and landscape resources

The Thomas Jefferson Region is a major tourist destination for visitors from throughout the country because of the region's many natural and historic resources. All the localities in this region have resources on the National Register of Historic Places, including a number of historic districts that date back to the first settlement in the area.

Every year, nearly 500,000 visitors are drawn to Monticello, a World Heritage Site owned and operated by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation. The foundation has endeavored to preserve not only the house, but also the thousands of acres of scenic lands that surround the plantation — the 40-mile viewshed that defines the setting. To expand the protection of Jefferson's home and environs, the foundation has taken a leading role in protecting the cultural landscape along the Journey Through Hallowed Ground (see recommendation number 27 below). The preservation methods employed by the foundation are models for the protection of scenic, historic and cultural resources across the state (see Chapter III. Land Conservation).

Monticello is part of the proposed 87,000-acre Southern Albemarle Rural Historic District. This district will connect to the Madison-Barbour and Southwest Mountains rural historic districts to create a 143,000-acre area of important historic and scenic resources.

Located in the Southern Albemarle Historic District and participating in the Journey Through Hallowed Ground program, Ash-Lawn Highland, the hilltop home of President James Monroe and his wife Elizabeth, provides views of Carter Mountain and Monticello. Owned by Monroe's alma mater, the College of William and Mary, the estate preserves over 500 acres of rolling foothills and mountain slopes. Ash Lawn Highland receives visitors year round for tours, educational programs and music events.

Consideration should be given to evaluating potential historic and landscape recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Historic and

Landscape Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should identify historic and archaeological resources that can be used for tourism, recreation and education. These resources should be included in local land use planning and decision-making processes to promote preservation and protection.
- Regional and local agencies should partner with local historic attractions, historical societies, museums and other tourism organizations in the region to include the Virginia Association of Museums, Virginia Civil War Trails, APVA Preservation Virginia, the Virginia Main Street Program and others to enhance local heritage tourism, educational and recreational offerings.
- Regional and local agencies should encourage local governments and private organizations that own historic properties in the region to manage properties effectively for long-term protection and to maximize public benefit consistent with the nature of the historic property.
- Regional and local agencies should recognize the multiple historic and cultural resources within the rural landscape through rural historic districts.
- Regional and local agencies should support the creation of other heritage area programs to promote tourism and preservation in distinctive regions.

27 The **Journey Through Hallowed Ground Partnership** is a four-state, nonprofit organization dedicated to raising regional, national and international awareness of the historic, cultural and natural resources along a corridor generally following the Old Carolina Road (Routes 15 and 231) from Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, to Monticello in Virginia. DCR and local governments should support designation of a nationally recognized historic corridor along this route to increase civic engagement and foster heritage tourism.

28 The **Holland-Page House**, owned by the Historical Society in Fluvanna County, is being developed as a museum of rural life from 1865-1900. Plans for a nature trail from the log cabin to Long Island Creek should be implemented and evaluated for linkage to the Rivanna River Trail.

29 The Trevilian Station Battlefield Foundation is dedicated to the preservation of the **Battlefield of Trevilian Station**. This Civil War battle raged for two days on 7,000 acres approximately six miles west of Louisa. Efforts should continue to protect battlefield land, preserve artifacts and educate the public.

**30** In 1988, the General Assembly officially designated the **James River Batteau Festival Trail** from Lynchburg to the City of Richmond. Localities along the route should support conservation and rehabilitation of remaining navigational structures from the days of the batteau.

**31** The Nelson County Historical Society is working with the county to develop **Oakland**, the Nelson County Museum of History.

**32** The Fluvanna County Historical Society plans to develop **Palmyra Mill Park** and link it to other points of interest along the Fluvanna Heritage Trail.

### Scenic resources

Consideration should be given to potential scenic recommendations in this region. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Resources. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Regional and local agencies should develop corridor management plans for scenic byways, blueways, greenways and scenic rivers to assure preservation of the scenic quality of the corridor.
- Regional and local agencies should protect the scenic value of lands adjacent to publicly owned properties, as well as the scenic value of working agricultural and forestal areas key to maintaining a sense of place and economic vitality of the region. Scenic attributes to be considered include:
  - Encourage development away from mountaintops to protect significant vistas.
  - Consider timber harvesting impacts on key viewsheds.
  - Protect viewsheds along river corridors and scenic byways.
  - Create scenic overlooks and vista cuts along Virginia byways and scenic highways to enhance the visual experience of traveling.
- Efforts to protect the natural and scenic resources of Skyline Drive, Blue Ridge Parkway, Appalachian Trail (AT), the Journey Through Hallowed Ground corridor, Crozet Tunnel and sections of Route 29 should be continued. Federal and state agencies should coordinate with localities to help protect these resources.
- A natural buffer should be created between the AT and adjacent development. Many privately owned ridge tops adjacent to Shenandoah National Park are prime targets for development, which could have

major impacts on the scenic quality of the park and the Central Virginia region.

**33** High priorities have been set by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) to protect and conserve the **Humpback Rocks** area in Nelson County.

**34** **Hightop Mountain** in Greene County is a high priority for protection by the ATC.

**35** The scenic quality of **Monticello** should be protected.

**36** The scenic quality of **Ash Lawn-Highland** should be protected.

### Scenic highways and Virginia byways

Opportunities to traverse Virginia's scenic and cultural landscapes are enhanced through nationally recognized designation. For more detailed information, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Scenic Highways and Virginia Byways.

Scenic roads recommendations for the region include:

- Regional and local agencies should recognize and nominate scenic roads for designation as Virginia byways.
- Regional and local agencies should partner with other state, local and professional organizations to develop corridor management plans to protect the scenic assets of byway corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should incorporate Virginia byways and scenic highways into local comprehensive plans and zoning ordinances to ensure viewsheds are conserved and the sense of place retained along these corridors.
- Regional and local agencies should support designation of nationally qualified historic corridors to increase civic engagement and foster heritage tourism.
- The following scenic corridors are recognized in Virginia and should receive consideration by local and regional plans for viewshed management.
  - Journey Through Hallowed Ground Corridor
  - Appalachian National Scenic Trail
  - Shenandoah National Park (Skyline Drive)

Management of scenic resources is linked to the economic prosperity of the state as it relates to tourism and the overall aesthetic character of the Commonwealth for business, industry and residents. Local governments should encourage landowners,

localities and planning district commissions to develop a scenic overlay zone adjacent to and within the viewshed of these corridors as part of a multi-regional viewshed planning process.

- The Skyline Drive (Shenandoah National Park) was recently designated a National Scenic Byway. The National Scenic Byway designation allows the locality to apply for funding through the National Scenic Byways Grant Program. Localities should focus on enhancing the traveling and visitor experience and managing, restoring and preserving scenic or historic roads.
- Communities along the national byways should consider strengthening local comprehensive plans and creating special zoning regulations to protect the unique scenic and economic benefits associated with the scenic values of the Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway and their viewsheds.

The following road segments are potential and should be evaluated for consideration as Virginia Byways:

- 37** **Route 29** in Nelson and Albemarle counties.
- 38** **Route 53** in Albemarle and Fluvanna counties.
- 39** **Route 692** in Albemarle County.
- 40** **Route 230** in Greene County.
- 41** The designation of a **James River Byway** consisting of roads in Fluvanna, Albemarle and Nelson counties that closely parallel the James River Batteau Festival trail should be considered. The corridor would include **Route 626**.
- 42** **Route 810** from Standardsville in Greene County to Crozet in Albemarle County.

### Scenic rivers

In this region there are currently three designated scenic river segments: Moormans River (Charlottesville Reservoir to confluence with the Mechums River), Rivanna River (Woolen Mills to confluence with the James River), and Rockfish River (Route 693 at Schuyler to confluence with James River). For detailed information about the Virginia's Scenic Rivers Program and its purpose, benefits and designation process, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Recreation Programs and Initiative, Scenic Rivers.

- Localities should adopt planning tools (e.g., land use overlays, corridor management plans) that will afford special recognition and protection to Virginia's scenic rivers.

The following river segments qualify for designation as Virginia Scenic Rivers:

- 43** The **James River** from Wingina to Maidens has been evaluated and was found to be worthy of designation.

The following river segments are potential Virginia Scenic Rivers and should be evaluated to determine suitability for designation:

- 44** **Rapidan River headwaters** in Greene County.
- 45** **Mechums River** for its entire length.
- 46** The **South Anna River** from Lake Gordonsville to Route 673.
- 47** The **North Anna** from Lake Anna to Route 738.
- 48** The **James River** from Bent Creek to Wingina.
- 49** The **South River** in Greene County.
- 50** The **Hardware River** in Fluvanna County.
- 51** The **South Fork of the Rockfish River** from its headwaters within Wintergreen Resort to its confluence with the north fork along Route 6.
- 52** The **Conway (Middle) River** between Greene and Madison counties.
- 53** The **Tye River** in Nelson County.
- 54** **Upper Rockfish River** from the headwaters to Route 693.
- 55** North Fork of the **Rivanna River** from the headwaters to its confluence with the south fork, South Fork of the Rivanna River from South Fork Reservoir Dam to its confluence with the main stem, and the Rivanna River from the South Fork confluence to Woolen Mills Dam.

### Watershed resources

This region is within the Chesapeake Bay Watershed. Much of the area drains to the James River, although most of Louisa County drains to the York River. Small parts of the northeast section of Albemarle County drain to both the York and the Rappahannock. For information about Virginia's watershed programs, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Virginia's Watershed Programs.

In June of 1991, Albemarle County became the first non-Tidewater locality in Virginia to voluntarily adopt a local Chesapeake Bay protection ordinance that requires buffers and limits activities along waterways. The county relies on reservoirs for a significant portion of its water supply and places a priority on maintaining the quality of this water supply. As such, for lands that drain to a public water supply reservoir, 100-foot buffers are required on both sides of all streams, regardless of whether they are intermittent or perennial. On lands immediately adjacent to a water supply reservoir, the buffer must extend 200 feet from the 100-year floodplain of the reservoir. In the remainder of the county, 100-foot buffers are required on both sides of perennial streams. The 100-year floodplain also factors into the required width of the buffer in most areas of the county.

### Watershed groups in Region 10

- James River Association
- Middle James Roundtable
- Piedmont Environmental Council
- Rivanna Conservation Society
- Lake Anna Advisory Committee
- Lake Anna Civic Association
- Friends of Lake Anna State Park
- Virginia Conservation Network
- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
- The Chesapeake Bay Foundation

Watershed recommendations for this region include

- The Thomas Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District should continue its active easement program that protects small and large properties on which there are significant water resource areas—streams, springs, wetlands, ground water recharge areas and steep slopes.
- The Greene County Stream Alert should continue conducting macroinvertebrate stream monitoring on the Rivanna River and reporting the data to StreamWatch.
- StreamWatch, a community-based stream-monitoring program, should continue to provide high-quality data and information about stream conditions throughout the Rivanna watershed. The pursuit of this objective entails three program components: field investigations, data consolidation, and information distribution.
- The Nature Conservancy's Piedmont Program should continue to work with a variety of partners to protect the forests, rivers and streams, wetlands, and

unique habitats of the Piedmont. Land acquisition, community and science-based conservation, land management, conservation easements, education and outreach, and policy oversight have been used to protect more than 6,000 acres in the Piedmont.

- Virginia's General Assembly passed legislation in early 2004 to establish the Rivanna River Basin Commission. The commission should continue to assist localities in making decisions that are both well informed and consistent with a unified plan to preserve the river's health. The localities of Albemarle, Fluvanna, Greene and Charlottesville all voted to join the Rivanna River Basin Commission in 2006, with meetings beginning in 2007.
- The Thomas Jefferson Planning District Commission was awarded a contract to begin studies for the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for the north fork and main stem of the Hardware River, and for the Rivanna River and several of its tributaries. The study should determine sources of pollution and how much contribution from each source would need to be reduced in order for the waterway to meet healthy water quality standards.
- Local and regional agencies and organizations should create a goal-based watershed initiative to develop a comprehensive watershed framework for addressing the needs outlined in the 2002 Rivanna Watershed Needs Assessment.
- The recommendations from the 1998 Rivanna River Basin Project: State of the Basin report by the Rivanna River Basin Roundtable should continue to be implemented.
- Albemarle County should continue to move forward with green infrastructure planning and riparian buffer acquisition as part of the greenway plan implementation.
- 56 **Swift Run** in Greene County, which hosts the endangered James Spiny Mussel, should be protected.

57 **Moore's Creek** should be brought into compliance with water quality standards as outlined in the *2005 Moore's Creek Fecal Coliform TMDL Implementation Plan*.

### Environmental and land stewardship education

For detailed information on Environmental and Land Stewardship education, see Chapter VII: Outdoor Programs and Initiatives, Environmental and Land Stewardship Education. Environmental and land stewardship recommendations for this region include:



- The Ivy Creek Foundation is a nonprofit organization in Charlottesville whose mission is to preserve and manage the Ivy Creek and Ragged Mountain Natural Areas for education and appreciation. The Ivy Creek Foundation Education Building is a green building. The facility, which seats 65 people, is available without charge to community organizations for environmental meetings and workshops. The education building should remain a venue for outdoor environmental education.
  - The Culpeper Soil and Water Conservation District should continue to provide field trips based on the curriculum *Blueprint for Regional Soil and Water Conservation* in order to teach middle school students about the relationship between land use and water quality.
  - The Albemarle County Natural Heritage Committee should continue to build partnerships with organizations that currently offer outdoor educational opportunities to raise awareness about biodiversity.
  - The Rivanna Conservation Society should continue to offer the 100-acre Scheier Natural Area, with its eight ponds and more than three miles of beautiful trails, for hiking, the enjoyment of nature and environmental education.
  - The Rivanna Chapter of the Virginia Master Naturalists Program should continue to train volunteers to offer nature-based outdoor education experiences.
  - In the summer of 2006, Charlottesville became a Sierra Club Cool City along with 240 other cities that have agreed to follow the Kyoto Protocol International Global Warming Treaty and strive to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) pollution to 7.0 percent below 1990 levels by 2012. As a part of this initiative, the city should create open spaces, plant trees and expand efforts to educate citizens about conservation and alternative energy sources.
  - The Wintergreen Resort Outdoor Wilderness Leadership School should continue to offer nationally certified training to develop leadership in the outdoor education industry.
  - Camp Friendship in Fluvanna County should continue to provide outdoor educational experiences as a private residential camp. Partnerships with local schools and organizations should be explored.
  - Local and regional agencies and organizations should develop an ecotourism map highlighting the scenic, historic and recreational amenities of the region.
- 58 The **Rockfish Valley Farm** should continue to be developed for environmental education and agri-tourism. Plans include an outdoor laboratory classroom, a geology trail, interpretation of VDOT's stream restoration, horticultural demonstration and visitor services.
  - 59 Continue development of an outdoor amphitheater and programs at **Pleasant Grove** site. The Manor House should be renovated for use as office space, gatherings and as a visitor center. Develop outdoor recreation and primitive camping on site.
  - 60 The City of Charlottesville and stakeholders should develop an **environmental education center**.
  - 61 The proposed **Lewis and Clark Exploratory Center** at Darden Towe Park in Charlottesville should provide outdoor educational experiences that focus on the expedition's legacy in Virginia and tell fundamental cultural and natural stories.
  - 62 Opportunities for outdoor environmental education at **Camp Albemarle**, a 4-H facility located on the Moorman's River, should be enhanced.

### Federal programs

For information on federal programs affecting Virginia's outdoor recreation and conservation opportunities, see Chapter IX-A: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency.

### National parks

- Local and regional government, user groups and nonprofits should work with the National Park Service (NPS) to revise policy, which would allow mountain bikes to use appropriate national park trails.
- An effort should be made to reduce air pollution that comprises viewsheds from Shenandoah National Park. Changing land use adjacent to the park should be evaluated for its potential impacts. Local governments need to support efforts to encourage adjacent landowners, localities, and planning district commissions to develop a scenic overlay zone adjacent to and within the viewshed of the Shenandoah National Park as part of a multi-regional park viewshed planning process.
- Increased emergency vehicle access to Shenandoah National Park should be established.

**63** There is a need to **develop a Blue Ridge Visitor Information Center** and Services Center in the vicinity of I-64 near the intersection with Skyline Drive and the Blue Ridge Parkway. Shenandoah National Park received more than 1.3 million visitors in 1999 and the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia receives an estimated 10 million visitors annually. A partnership among the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the state of Virginia and surrounding localities could be created to plan, build and operate a complex near Rockfish Gap or Afton Mountain that would complement the visitor centers envisioned in the Shenandoah Battlefield National Historic District.

**64** A trail has been proposed by local jurisdictions along the **existing fire road between Jarman's Gap and Sugar Hollow**. This trail could help meet expanding demand from recreational users in Western Albemarle.

**65** Cyclists have identified the need for suitable **bicycle access across the northern half of the Blue Ridge** connecting the valley to the piedmont. Route 33 and 211 are not safe for cyclists. Suitable carriage roads would include Brown's Gap, one of the oldest turnpikes across the region. This would link the greater areas around Harrisonburg and Charlottesville together. Federal transportation monies could be utilized to assist with carriage road maintenance if they were to accommodate non-motorized transportation.

## State facilities and programs

For a discussion of state facilities and programs throughout the entire Commonwealth, see Chapter IX-B: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations are listed by agency or program.

## State parks

- There is no state park in Region 10. The recreational need exists for a state park to be located in the vicinity of Charlottesville. Potential sites should be considered along the Mechums, Rivanna or Tye Rivers.

## State natural area preserves

Naked Mountain, in Nelson County, is the only state natural area preserve located within the Thomas Jefferson Planning District. As of November 2006, DCR has documented 122 occurrences of 64 rare species and natural communities in Region 10.

Sixteen species are globally rare and four are federally threatened or endangered. Forty-six conservation

sites have been identified in the district, of which 33 (72 percent) have received some level of protection through ownership or management by state, federal and non-government organizations. However, only nine sites are protected well enough to ensure the long-term viability of the rare species and natural communities they support.

DCR recommends that all unprotected conservation sites, and all unprotected portions of partially protected sites, be targeted for future land conservation efforts. The appropriate method of protection will vary with each site but may include placing the site on Virginia's Registry of Natural Areas, developing a voluntary management agreement with the landowner, securing a conservation easement through a local land trust, acquiring the site through a locality or local land trust, dedicating the site as a natural area preserve with the current owner, or acquiring the site as a state-owned natural area preserve.

Within Region 10, DCR is particularly interested in protecting:

- Large blocks of native forests.
- High quality stream corridors.
- Rare wetland and rock outcrop communities.

## State Fish and Wildlife Management Areas (WMA)

The Rapidan, James River, and Hardware River wildlife management areas are located in this region. The Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) should continue to investigate opportunities to acquire in-holdings in their wildlife management areas and to improve each area with trails and other structures for wildlife viewing and other outdoor recreation. They should also acquire additional lands wherever feasible to provide additional access for public hunting, fishing and wildlife viewing recreation.

- DGIF should continue to work with local and regional governments to support the Birding and Wildlife Trail program.

**66** The Hardware and James River wildlife management areas should be evaluated for their potential to become segments of the **James River Heritage Trail**.

## State forests

- Local and regional agencies should encourage the use of Department of Forestry (DOF) Best Management Practices in floodplain forest areas, particularly those adjacent to state-designated scenic waterways.

- Local and regional agencies should use DOF properties as field classrooms to help with educational programs.
- Local and regional agencies should coordinate with DOF and seek the assistance of local trail and river user organizations to develop forest trails and publish maps for each state forest, as well as establish greenways and blueways for public use.
- Local and regional agencies should investigate opportunities to acquire fee simple ownership or easements to conserve working farms and forests in the region.
- Local and regional agencies should work with DOF to create defensible space around buildings to reduce the risk of wild fires through the DOF Fire Wise Program.
- Localities should work with DOF on education and monitoring of tree diseases and other pests that could weaken the forested environments.
- Agricultural lands should be targeted for reforestation to protect the water quality of the area and limit the effects of erosion on these lands.

**67** DOF should expand demonstration and research opportunities, as well as facilities for hiking and outdoor study, at **Lesesne State Forest**. An updated management plan is being prepared. The emphasis on the forest will continue to be research on restoration of the American Chestnut.

### Transportation programs

- Local and regional agencies should develop alternatives to the use of private automobiles for daily activities. Transit systems, bicycle and pedestrian accommodations, improved community design, as well as a change in people's attitudes toward transportation alternatives will be needed for the transportation system of the future to meet capacity needs and energy constraints.
- Local and regional agencies should work with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to implement Context Sensitive Solutions that accommodate multiple transportation modes.
- Local and regional agencies should recognize the need for a network of low-speed, low-volume roadways used by equestrians, pedestrians and cyclists, and they should include protections for this network in their comprehensive plan.
- Local and regional agencies should encourage the development of a permanent process for integrating

the recommendations of local public health agencies and "active living" opportunities into all phases of transportation planning, land use planning and project design.

- Stakeholders should implement the Jefferson Area Bicycle, Pedestrian and Greenways Plan adopted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization and the Planning District Commission in 2004.
- Stakeholders should implement bicycle, pedestrian and greenways items in local plans, e.g., the 2002 Nelson County Comprehensive Plan, the 2003 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Master Plan for the City of Charlottesville, the Scottsville Bicycle and Pedestrian Integrated Plan, the 1999 Albemarle County Comprehensive Plan and recommendations from Albemarle County's Places29 Master Plan.
- Stakeholders should support the Alliance for Community Choice in Transportation and their efforts to increase pedestrian and bicycle commuting in the greater Charlottesville area.

**68 U. S. Bicycle Route 76** (the Trans-America Bicycle Trail) should be enhanced and signage maintained. When road improvements are made, a bike lane should be added, and facilities for bicyclists should be available along the route.

### Other state lands

For a discussion of other state lands, see Chapter IX-C: Resource Agencies.

The following state-owned lands contain significant undeveloped open space that may have some potential for local recreational use. Each site should be assessed and, where appropriate, a cooperative agreement should be developed to make these resources available for local use as parks and open space.

- The University of Virginia is working on a strategy for sustainability in an effort to demonstrate national leadership in how an institution with an operating budget of \$1.88 billion can invest in the future of the planet. As part of the overall strategy, a grounds plan will optimize options for multi-modal traffic on campus and allow for higher density developed areas and conservation zones. The university plan should serve as a model to other institutions.

**69** The **Birdwood** property in Albemarle County, a 148-acre tract of land owned by the University of Virginia, should be evaluated to determine open space and outdoor recreation potential.

**70** Undeveloped portions of the **Piedmont Community College** campus in Albemarle County should be evaluated to determine recreational and open space potential.

**71** Undeveloped portions of the **Blue Ridge Hospital** property in Albemarle County should be evaluated to determine recreational and open space potential.

**72** The **Milton Airport property** is surplus state property maintained for the University of Virginia's storage needs. It is located in eastern Albemarle County on the Rivanna River. The relatively flat, 172-acre property has tremendous potential to serve as a riverside park and help meet demand for open field space. A cooperative venture between the university, the city and county should be developed to meet the region's recreational needs. This effort would complement the county's greenway and blueway planning efforts near the site.

### Local and regional parks and recreation departments

For a discussion of local and regional parks and recreation departments, see Chapter IX-D: Resource Agencies. Local and regional recommendations include:

- Explore reclamation of abandoned landfills into new and needed parks.
- Local governments and agencies should consider cooperative management for the recreational use of private, corporate and state or federally owned lands in order to increase local access and meet outdoor recreation needs.
- DeFosse Winery should continue to partner with Nelson County Parks and Recreation to provide five miles of hiking and mountain biking trails that are also available for All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) use during special events.

- Walnut Creek Park is a popular park that features a disc golf course and more than 15 miles of mountain bike trail. More development of park facilities for non-traditional recreational activities are needed in the region to encourage younger generations to participate in outdoor recreation.

Ragged Mountain Natural Area is a beautiful 980-acre forest of mature oak, hickory, poplar, pine and maple trees with two lakes and more than four miles of shoreline. It is owned by the City of Charlottesville and Albemarle County and managed by the Ivy Creek Foundation. It has seven miles of trail, which are a part of the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail.

**73** Development at Fluvanna County's publicly owned, 960-acre **Pleasant Grove** site includes an accessible trailhead, access road, ballfields, playground, dog park, restrooms, decorative gardens, Heritage Trailhead Museum, an outdoor classroom and connecting trails. The county should evaluate renovation of the historic home and potential future uses.

**74** The City of Charlottesville and stakeholders should evaluate options for a **pedestrian bridge or ferry across the Rivanna River** to link Darden Towe Park to Pin Park.

### Private sector

Much of the demand for outdoor recreation is met by the private sector. For a discussion of private sector role, see Chapter IX-E: Resource Agencies. The following recommendation pertains to this region:

**75** A **hostel convenient to the I-64 and I-81 corridors**, the Skyline Drive, the Appalachian Trail and Shenandoah National Park should be considered.

**Table X-10. Region 10 (Thomas Jefferson Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs**

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Baseball	503,287	99	fields	64	35	56
Basketball	448,764	106	goals	104	2	25
Bicycling	350,204	25	miles	NI		
Mountain	50,329	4	miles	NI		
Other	299,875	21	miles	NI		
Lake, river and bay use (combined)	666,017	12,767	water acres	14,617	-1,850	835
Power boating	331,750	7,996	water acres	S		
Sailing	46,973	407	water acres	S		
Saltwater fishing	150,986	849	water acres	S		
Jet ski, personal watercraft	48,232	756	water acres	S		
Water skiing, towed on water	88,075	2,760	water acres	S		
Camping	230,254	1,358	sites	1,531	-173	112
Tent camping	98,141	579	sites	471	108	229
Developed camping	132,113	779	sites	1,060	-281	-117
Fitness trail use	104,222	8	mile trails	18	-10	-8
Fields (combined)	498,883	105	fields	84	21	43
Football	283,099	60	fields	84	-24	-12
Soccer	215,784	45	fields	-	45	55
Stream use (combined)	800,856	511	stream miles	272	239	346
Freshwater fishing	696,214	490	stream miles	S		
Human-powered boating	58,507	15	stream miles	S		
Rafting	8,388	1	stream miles	S		
Tubing	37,747	5	stream miles	S		
Golfing	219,769	7	courses	217	-5	-3
Hiking, backpacking	350,204	180	trail miles	190	-10	27
Horseback riding	58,717	25	miles	43	-18	-12
In-line skating	48,232	3	miles	NI		
Jogging, running	2,812,117	225	mile trails	NI		
Nature study, programs	67,105	10	sites	3	7	9

**Note:** Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

**NA:** not applicable, no standard needed

**S:** same as combined

**NS:** not inventoried separately

**NI:** not inventoried

**( - )** indicates surplus

**Table X-10. Region 10 (Thomas Jefferson Planning District) Existing and Projected Outdoor Recreation Needs – continued**

Activity	Activity Days	Demand	Units	Supply	2010 Needs	2020 Needs
Picnicking away from home	233,190	605	tables	633	-28	100
Skateboarding	81,784	25	sites	NI		
Snow skiing or snowboarding	44,038	1	ski lifts	8	-7	-7
Softball	331,331	59	fields	51	8	20
Sunbathing, relaxing on beach	497,625	36	beach acres	9	27	34
Swimming	2,097,030	146		NI		
Outdoor area	1,128,202	116	beach acres	9	107	131
Outdoor pools	624,915	26	pools	44	-18	-12
Indoor pools	343,913	4	pools	6	-2	-1
Tennis	131,903	82	courts	170	-88	-70
Used a playground	530,968	76	sites	113	-37	-22
Visiting gardens	103,803	11	sites	NI		
Visiting historic sites	326,508	28	sites	NI		
Visiting natural areas	371,594	63	sites	NI		
Volleyball	23,277	7	courts	4	3	4
Hunting	481,478	78,957	acres	34,984	43,973	60,577
Drive for pleasure	1,281,285	NA	NA	NI		
Driving motorcycle off road	79,687	36	miles	-	36	44
Driving 4-wheel-drive off road	115,756	NA	NA	NS		
Walking for pleasure	6,679,041	NA	NA	NI		
Bird watching	52,845	NA		NI		
Other	9,227	NA	NA	NI		

**Note:** Demand multipliers used to create this chart are based on the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation's 2006 *Virginia Outdoors Survey* as measured at the regional level. Additional analysis is required to adjust these results for local conditions.

**NA:** not applicable, no standard needed

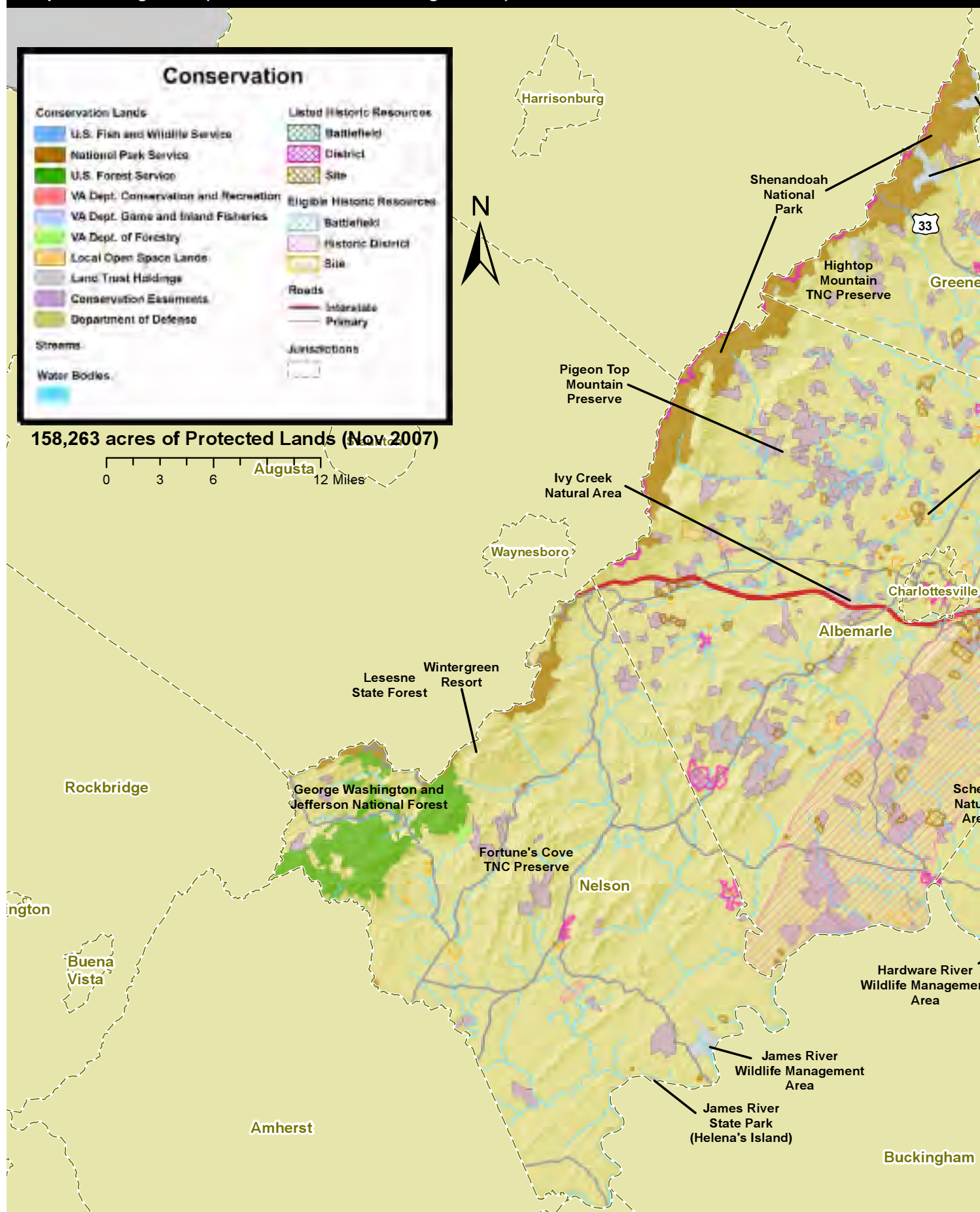
**S:** same as combined

**NS:** not inventoried separately

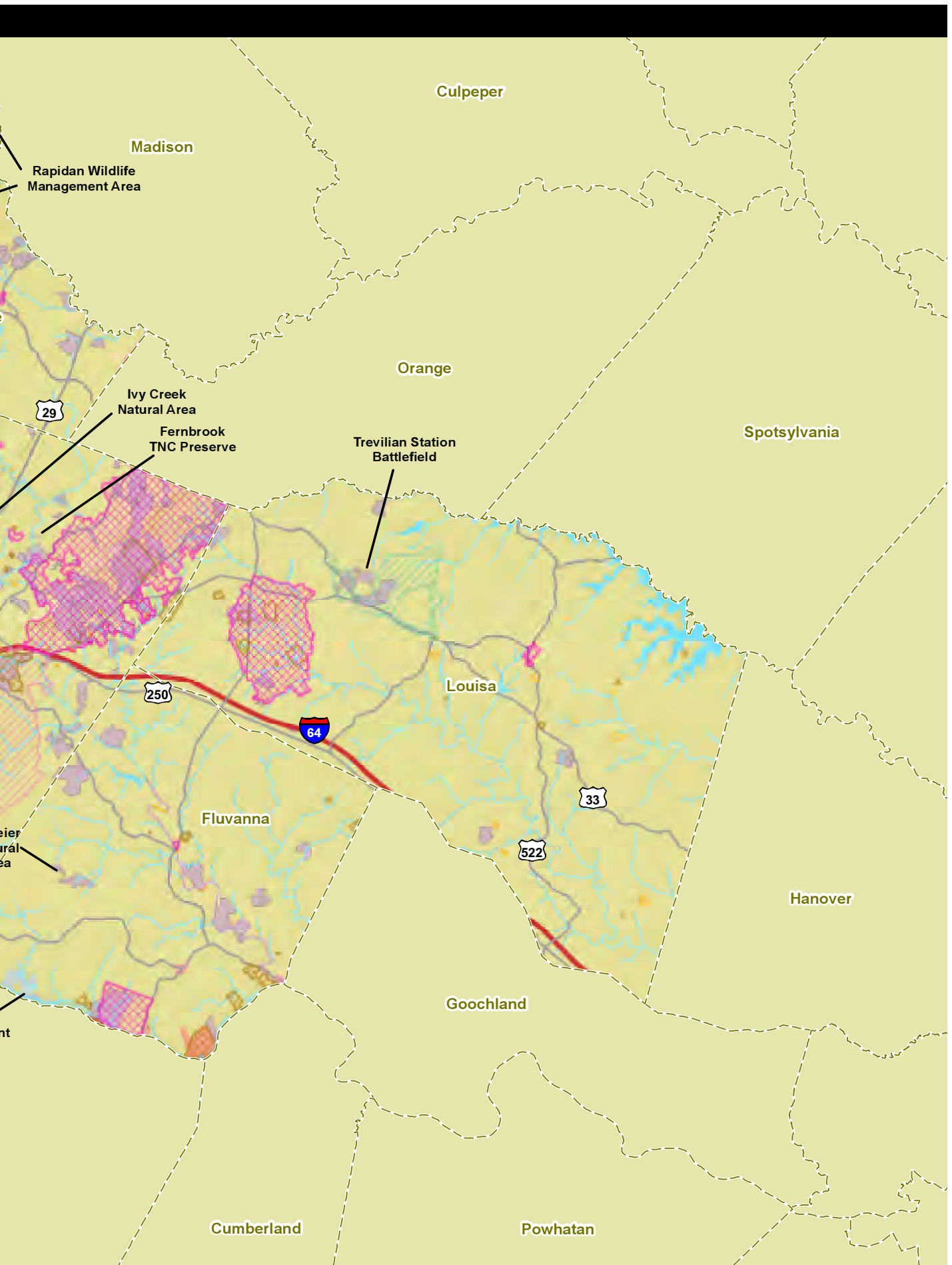
**NI:** not inventoried

**( - )** indicates surplus

**Map X-20. Region 10 (Thomas Jefferson Planning District) Conservation Lands**









**Map X-21. Region 10 (Thomas Jefferson Planning District) Outdoor Recreation**

